



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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DUVAL COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Jacksonville, FL - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that Ripley Ridenour (age 55, of Jacksonville) pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court today to receiving images of child pornography over the Internet. Ridenour faces a minimum sentence of 5 years in federal prison and a maximum of 20 years. A sentencing date for Ridenour has not yet been set.

According to court documents and Ridenour's plea agreement, in early 2009, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began investigating the use of chat rooms to transport and receive child pornography over the Internet. Agents identified Ridenour's computer as having numerous child pornography images available for downloading over the Internet. On May 4, 2010, the FBI contacted Ridenour regarding the investigation, and an eventual search of Ridenour's computer revealed more than 200 images and 11 videos of child pornography.

The case was investigated by the Jacksonville Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Innocent Images Task Force. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kevin C. Frein.

This case is also part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in 2006 that is designed to protect children from online sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney's Offices and DOJ's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.